

commands a very high price in the antiquarian book market.

Denton's biographical data are sparse. He was born in Dayton, Ohio, U.S.A. on the 24th September 1857. His father, William Denton (1823-1883) was a controversial non-conformist Methodist lecturer and author. Sherman Denton was educated in Massachusetts, and visited the far West on an extended collecting trip as a young man. His subsequent expedition to Australasia was described in *Incidents of a collector's rambles in Australia, New Zealand, and New Guinea* (Boston, 1889). These years were followed by work on his **American** book. In later life, Denton mounted biological specimens for a number of museums, including the Smithsonian. He died on the 17th June 1937, and the exact method of his scale transfer is not known.

Of course, other efforts of varying merit have been attempted. I am especially interested in those of Lionel G. O. Woodhouse, co-author with G. M. R. Henry of the well-known *The butterfly fauna of Ceylon* (Colombo, 1942), and author of the abridged edition of this important work (Colombo, 1950), because some years ago my friend E. W. Classey gave me a number of unpublished transfers on paper of *Attacus atlas* (L.) made by Woodhouse in 1933-34. He 'painted in' his bodies, and the scale retention and appearance of his wing transfers are remarkable. I should like to know if any older entomologists recall Woodhouse's method and any details of his work in this medium. This aspect of Woodhouse's work deserves to be recorded. — Dr. R. S. WILKINSON, 228 Ninth Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, U.S.A.

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON GONEPTERYX RHAMI L. IN 1978.
— Following a slight frost, March 3rd 1978 was a brilliant warm day, and during the morning whilst in my garden at Batheaston, Bath, I was delighted to see a male Brimstone Butterfly creep from the ivy which topped a dry stone wall. The wall faced due south and was in full sunshine. The insect sunned itself on a leaf for five or six minutes and then flew off strongly in a northerly direction. During the following thirty minutes or so a butterfly (or the butterfly) flew back to the ivy on eight different occasions, always settling on the same leaf and making as if to re-enter the ivy but never doing so. Eventually it flew off not to return. The ivy was carefully examined in the evening and on the following day but without sign of the Brimstone.

September 12th was a perfect autumn day which brought out the Vanessids to feed on the garden Buddleia, and I was fascinated to see a *ramni* (male) fly over the garden wall and show great interest in a *Clematis montana* which was trained along its southern face. The insect flew up and down for about twelve minutes, sometimes settling on leaves and sometimes completely leaving the area, but always returning to the same place in the Clematis. Finally it settled on a leaf from which it crawled into the creeper and settled itself in a wings-down position firmly clinging to a leaf stalk. The colour of the under-

side of the wing so merged with the leaves as to make the butterfly almost invisible. Here the insect remained, motionless on the hot days, but as the wind moved the leaves of the Clematis on the cold windy days it also moved the wings of the butterfly in unison with the leaves, thus completing the camouflage.

I was beginning to wonder what would happen when the leaves of the Clematis were shed, but on 20th September, a very hot day, I was fortunate enough to be in the garden and observe the Brimstone crawl out into the sunshine, bask on a leaf for a few minutes and then fly off to the north.

The butterfly returned to its basking position several times before flying off completely. — BRYAN W. MOORE, Church Cottage, Batheaston, Bath, Somerset.

SELATOSOMUS BIPUSTULATUS (LINNAEUS) (COL., ELATERIDAE) IN WILTSHIRE AND SUFFOLK. — This handsome Elaterid appears to be rarely encountered and then usually as single specimens.

The only Wiltsire record of which I am aware is for the northern vice-county and precise details are not provided (1938, *Marlborough College Nat. Hist. Soc. Report No. 87 — Hand-list of the Col. of the Marlborough District — 10 miles radius*). The collectors who supplied the majority of records for this list were E. Meyrick and A. G. Jebb. Some records were provided by Janson but he did not take this species. I took a single example from under the back of a dead, fallen hawthorn branch in the middle of Langley Wood near Redlynch (SU 2220) on April 4th 1974. A specimen of the Anthribid *Choragus sheppardi* Kirby emerged a short while later from a piece of the branch which had been retained.

Claude Morley, 1899 (*Col. of Suffolk*, p.69) recorded *S. bipustulatus* from Bungay (Garneys) and from Battisford (in coll. Baker). I know of no other Suffolk specimens. I swept a single example in Shrubland Park, Barham (TM 1252) from long grass growing under mature pines, and oaks with dead lower branches. The latter were almost certainly the breeding site of the beetle.

I thank Mr. N. Anderson and Lord de Saumarez for allowing me to collect on their respective estates at Redlynch and Barham. — D. R. NASH, 266 Colchester Road, Lawford, Essex, CO11 2BU.

NOTABLE MOTH SPECIES AT ASHURST, HAMPSHIRE, IN 1978. — The following species of Macrolepidoptera were recorded by M.V. trap in my garden at Ashurst, Hampshire (map ref: SU 344115) in 1978, not having been recorded in 1976 or 1977. Numbers of individuals are in brackets. *Macrothylacia rubi* L. (2), *Scopula floslactata* Haw. (2), *Rhodometra sacraria* L. (2), *Orthonama vittata* Borkh. (1), *Eulithis prunata* L. (2), *Hydriomena ruberata* Freyer (2), *Eupithecia linariata* D. & S. (1), *E. succenturiata* L. (1), *E. simplicata* Haw. (2), *E. fraxinata* Crewe (1), *Lobophora halterata* Hufn. (5), *Acasis viretata* Hubn. (4), *Selidosema brunnearia* Vill. (3), *Cleora cinctaria* D. & S. (4), *Boarmia roboraria* D. & S. (5), *Lomo-*